MARVEL COMICS
GUEST-STARRING X-MEN
the SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN
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30 YEARS
X-MEN
1963-1993
FALLEN HEROES!

BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT PETER PARKER GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF AN ARACHNID! ARMED WITH HIS WONDROUS WEB-SHOOTERS, THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET, AND MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!™

SOMEWHERE IN THE SKIES NORTH OF NEW YORK CITY, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN AND THE FIVE FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THE UNCANNY X-MEN FIND THEMSELVES IN A SLIGHT...PREDICAMENT:
WE'RE GOING DOWN!!
FALLING!

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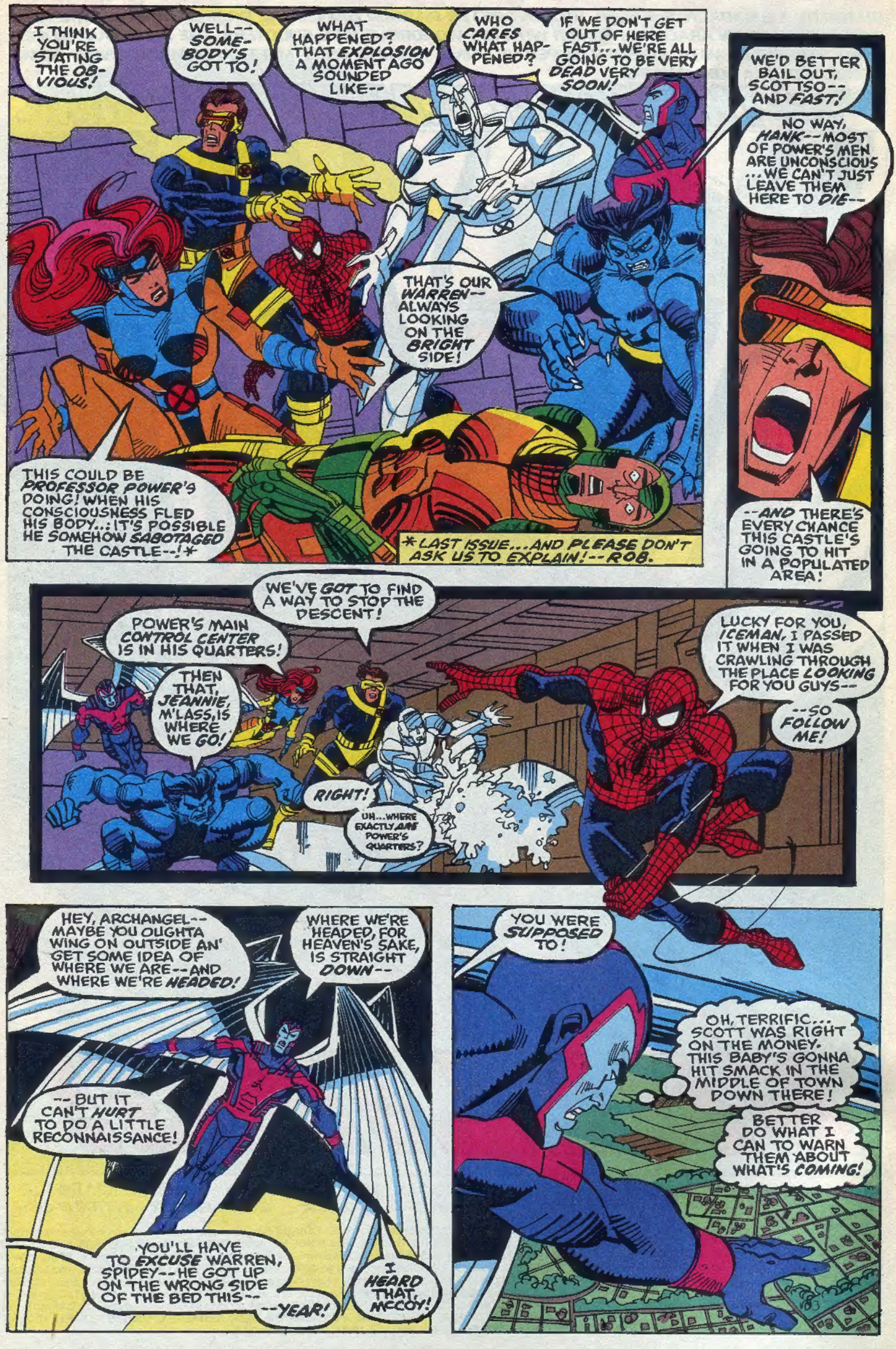

I THINK YOU'RE STATING THE OBVIOUS!
WELL--SOMEBODY'S GOT TO!
WHAT HAPPENED? THAT EXPLOSION A MOMENT AGO SOUNDED LIKE--
WHO CARES WHAT HAPPENED?
IF WE DON'T GET OUT OF HERE FAST...WE'RE ALL GOING TO BE VERY DEAD VERY SOON!
THAT'S OUR WARREN--ALWAYS LOOKING ON THE BRIGHT SIDE!
THIS COULD BE PROFESSOR POWER'S DOING! WHEN HIS CONSCIOUSNESS FLED HIS BODY..: IT'S POSSIBLE HE SOMEHOW SABOTAGED THE CASTLE--!*
*LAST ISSUE...AND PLEASE DON'T ASK US TO EXPLAIN!--ROB.
WE'D BETTER BAIL OUT, SCOTTSO--AND FAST!
NO WAY, HANK--MOST OF POWER'S MEN ARE UNCONSCIOUS ...WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE THEM HERE TO DIE--
--AND THERE'S EVERY CHANCE THIS CASTLE'S GOING TO HIT IN A POPULATED AREA!
WE'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY TO STOP THE DESCENT!
POWER'S MAIN CONTROL CENTER IS IN HIS QUARTERS!
THEN THAT, JEANNIE, M'LASS, IS WHERE WE GO!
RIGHT!
UH...WHERE EXACTLY ARE POWER'S QUARTERS?
LUCKY FOR YOU, ICEMAN, I PASSED IT WHEN I WAS CRAWLING THROUGH THE PLACE LOOKING FOR YOU GUYS--
--SO FOLLOW ME!
HEY, ARCHANGEL--MAYBE YOU OUGHTA WING ON OUTSIDE AN' GET SOME IDEA OF WHERE WE ARE--AND WHERE WE'RE HEADED!
WHERE WE'RE HEADED, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, IS STRAIGHT DOWN--
--BUT IT CAN'T HURT TO DO A LITTLE RECONNAISSANCE!
YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE WARREN, SPIDEY--HE GOT UP ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE BED THIS--
--YEAR!
I HEARD THAT, MCCOY!
YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO!
OH, TERRIFIC... SCOTT WAS RIGHT ON THE MONEY. THIS BABY'S GONNA HIT SMACK IN THE MIDDLE OF TOWN DOWN THERE!
BETTER DO WHAT I CAN TO WARN THEM ABOUT WHAT'S COMING!

...NICE CONTROL PANEL! LOOK AT ALL THOSE BLINKING LIGHTS! JUST LIKE "STAR TREK"!
THIS IS THE GUY WHO'S GONNA FIGURE OUT HOW TO STOP THIS STUFF?
HEY--MY BUDDY HANK'S A WHIZ WITH THIS STUFF--
---I HOPE.
MIND IF I PITCH IN? I'M NO SLOUCH IN THE WEIRD GIZMOS DEPARTMENT MYSELF!
YEAH--I CAN TELL BY YOUR MASTERY OF THE SCIENTIFIC NOMENCLATURE!
GOOD WORK! YOU'VE KICKED IN THE AUXILIARY POWER!
JUST CALL ME "GEORD!"!
BUT WE'RE STILL FALLING!
JEAN...WITH YOUR TELEPATHIC POWERS ...CAN'T YOU--?!
"WHOOPS"?!
WHOOPS.
THERE'S NO TIME!
"YOU MEAN--IT'S ALL UP TO THOSE TWO?!"
CONSIDERING THE ARMAMENTS POWER'S GOT ON BOARD, WHEN THAT CASTLE HITS--
--THERE'S NOT GOING TO BE ANYTHING LEFT OF THIS PLACE BUT A STEAMING CRATER!
EVERYONE--RUN!
HEAD FOR COVER!
FOR ALL THE GOOD IT'LL DO YOU!
"I SURE HOPE THE OTHERS KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING UP THERE!"
ABSOLUTELY!
I'M SURE IT'S THAT RED BUTTON IN THE BACK!
YOU REALLY THINK SO?
MY SPIDER-SENSE WOULD BE BUZZING IF IT WASN'T.
MAYER.
WILL YOU JUST PUSH THE BUTTON?!?!

WELL, WHAT HAVE WE GOT TO LOSE?
OUR LIVES?
YOU REALLY TRULY THINK IT'S THE RED BUTTON?
ONLY ONE WAY T'FIND OUT!
THEN DO IT!
MY THOUGHTS EXACTLY!
KLIK
SKREEEEE!
DON'T WORRY, KIDS -- I'VE GOT YOU!
"DON'T WORRY"? LET'S GET REAL -- THEY COULDN'T DO IT! WE'RE ALL GONNA --
NO! I'M NOT GIVING UP!
HANK MAY RIDE ME FOR BEING SO GRIM ALL THE TIME -- BUT WHEN IT COMES TO THE X-MEN --
-- I HAVE HOPE! I HAVE FAITH! I --
-- DON'T BELIEVE IT!
IT STOPPED! IT STOPPED!
WE DID IT!
DID WHAT?
DID WHAT?
WE CERTAINLY DID!
QUITE A TEAM, AREN'T WE?
YEP! WE CERTAINLY --
WHAT DID YOU DO?!
WHY... WE HIT THE BRAKES, OF COURSE!
FEEL FREE TO APPLAUD AT ANY TIME.

...THEY HIT THE BRAKES? THEY HIT THE BRAKES?!
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE WHAT THEY DID, JEAN? A DISASTER WAS AVERTED! LIVES WERE SAVED!
THEY HIT THE BRAKES?!
GOOD JOB, GUYS.
PLEASE-- DON'T CONGRATULATE THEM--
--THEIR HEADS ARE SWOLLEN ENOUGH AS IT IS!
NOT TO BE A DOWNER, GROUP--
PERISH THE THOUGHT!
--BUT NOW THAT WE'VE STOPPED THE THING... WHAT DO WE DO WITH IT?
HE'S RIGHT... WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE IT HANGING THERE!
MIGHT BE GOOD FOR THE TOWN. TURN IT INTO A MEDIEVAL THEME PARK OR SOMETHING.
SURE-- COMPLETE WITH NUCLEAR ARSENAL!
GOOD POINT! MAYBE WE'D BETTER CALL S.H.I.E.L.D! THEY KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH STUFF LIKE THIS--
HOLD THAT CALL, WEB-HEAD--
--LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS TO TAKE CARE OF!
POWER'S GOONS! GUESS THEY WEREN'T AS UNCONSCIOUS AS WE THOUGHT!
THEY WILL BE SOON!
NICE SHOT, CYKE!
FRAKKTT!
THANK YOU! NOW, IF YOU FOLKS'LL TAKE CARE OF THE MOP-UP?
FLOP!
NO PROBLEM! START WITH A LITTLE SNOW-DRIFT--
GOOSH!
--ADD SOME EXTRA-GOOEY WEB-BING--
THWIP
--STIR WELL WITH SOME BLUE-FURRED, HAPPY FEET--
--AND VOILA-- WE SAVE THE DAY!
AGAIN!

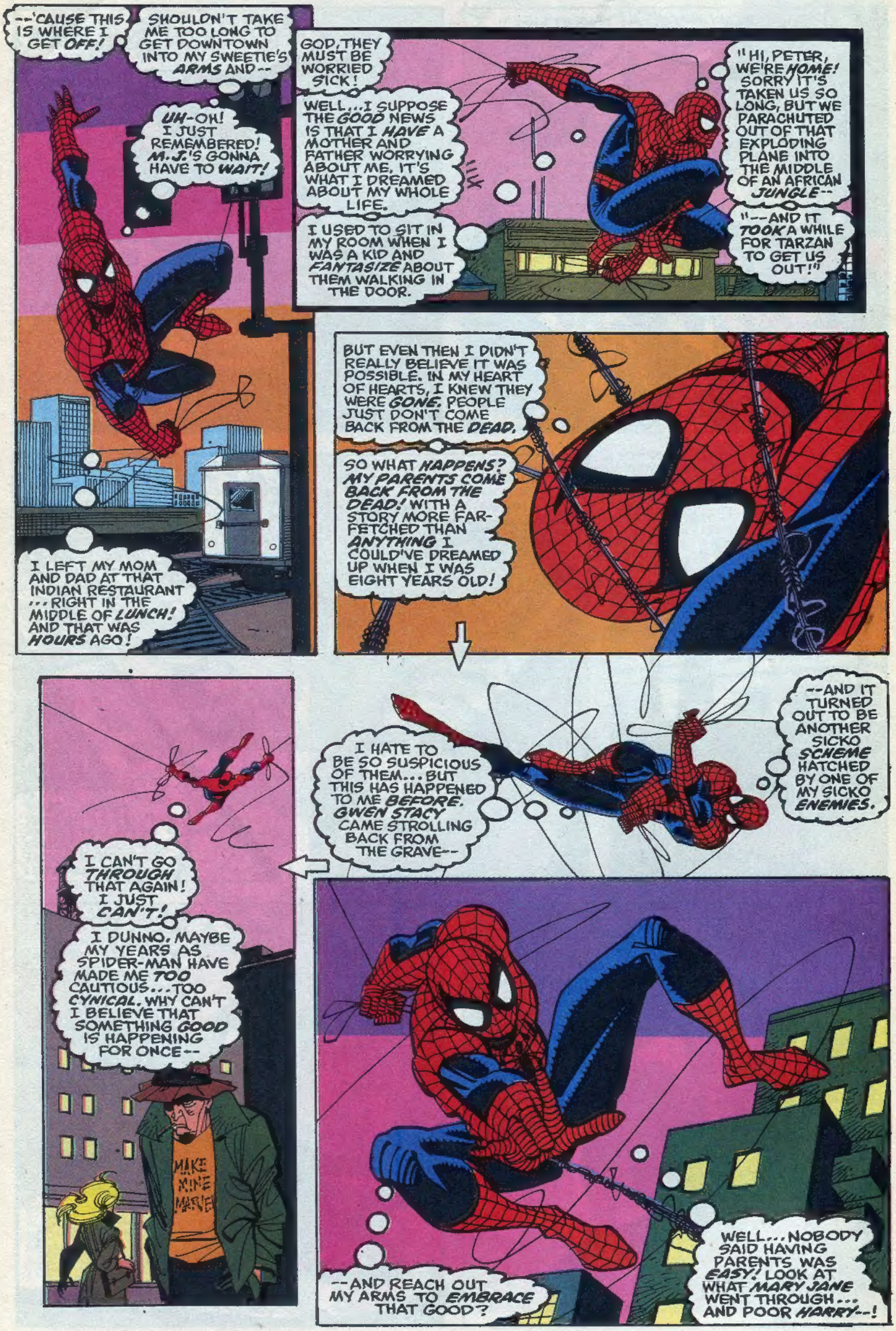
...I'LL SAY THIS FOR S.H.I.E.L.D.-- THEY CERTAINLY MOVE FAST.
THEY'RE GONNA HAVE A HECKUVA TIME FINDING A PARKING SPACE BIG ENOUGH FOR THAT THING.
YEAH. THEY'RE GONNA BE CIRCLING THE BLOCK FOR HOURS.
CAN'T YOU TWO STOP CLOWNING?
I DON'T THINK I CAN. HOW 'BOUT YOU, SPIDEY?
ME? NUH-UH. IMPOSSIBLE.
SIGH IS IT TIME TO GO HOME NOW?

IT IS FOR ME. I'VE GOT TO HEAD BACK TO THE CITY. BUT THANKS FOR A WILD 'N' CRAZY AFTERNOON, GUYS 'N' GAL. LET'S NOT DO IT AGAIN. EVER.
ADMIT IT, WEB-HEAD-- YOU LOVED EVERY MINUTE OF IT.
YEAH... ESPECIALLY THE PART WHERE POWER BEAT ME TO WITHIN AN INCH OF MY LIFE. WHAT A LAUGH-RIOT.
BEFORE YOU GO, SPIDER-MAN... I WANT TO THANK YOU ...FOR ALL YOUR HELP.

NO BIG DEAL, JEAN.
I MEAN, I HAVEN'T HAD A LIFE OR DEATH BATTLE IN... LEMME SEE NOW--
--MUST BE TWO OR THREE DAYS.
LORD KNOWS, I'D HATE TO GET RUSTY!

JOKE ALL YOU WANT-- BUT JUST KNOW HOW MUCH WE APPRECIATE WHAT YOU DID FOR US.
YOU'RE A GOOD MAN.
AND A GOOD FRIEND.

LIPSTICK ON MY MASK? HOW AM I EVER GONNA EXPLAIN THIS TO MY WIFE?
TAKE IT LIGHT, X-HEADS! SEND MY BEST TO THE PROF!
BE WELL, SPIDER-MAN--AND BE CAREFUL!
AU REVOIR, MON AMI!
SEE YA, PAL!
WHEW! I DON'T KNOW WHAT WAS MORE EXHAUSTING--TAKING ON POWER AND HIS CENTURIONS--OR TRYING TO KEEP UP WITH THE BEAST'S GROANERS!
THAT'S ONE OF THE REASONS I'VE ALWAYS LIKED HANK--HE'S GOT A SENSE OF HUMOR AS CORNY AS MINE--
--AND HE KNOWS THAT THE BEST TIME TO USE IT IS WHEN THINGS GET REALLY SERIOUS.
ALTHOUGH, I'VE GOTTA ADMIT THERE WERE A FEW MOMENTS DURING THE BATTLE WHEN THEY GOT A LITTLE TOO SERIOUS FOR MY TASTES.
'SPECIALLY WHEN POWER NAILED ME. I THOUGHT I'D TALKED HIM INTO GIVING UP... IT REALLY SEEMED LIKE HE WAS GONNA DO IT...AND THEN--WHAM!--
--HE ZAPS ME SO FAST MY SPIDER-SENSE COULDN'T EVEN WARN ME!
TIMES LIKE THAT I WONDER WHAT I'M DOING IN THIS LINE OF WORK.
I GET THIS PICTURE OF MYSELF LAID OUT ON A SLAB IN A MORGUE SOMEWHERE...MARY JANE COMING IN TO IDENTIFY MY BODY... CRYING HER EYES OUT, WHAT KIND OF--
AMTRAC
WHOA! EASY DOES IT, PARKER! LET'S NOT GET SO GLOOMY! YOU'RE STARTING T'SOUND LIKE ARCHANGEL!
LIFE'S GOOD, YOU'RE ALIVE... REASONABLY HEALTHY... THE WOMAN YOU ADORE IS WAITING FOR YOU AT HOME--
--AND YOU'RE GETTING A FREE RIDE BACK TO THE APPLE! SO STOP WORRYING AND RELAX!
YEAH... THINK I'LL JUST CLOSE MY EYES NOW... JUST A FEW MINUTES TO...
...NOW THAT FELT GOOD AND --
HUH?
THE CITY ALREADY? MUST'VE SLEPT LONGER THAN I REALIZED! WELL--
YAWN
--TIME T'SHIFT INTO HIGH GEAR--


--'CAUSE THIS IS WHERE I GET OFF!
SHOULDN'T TAKE ME TOO LONG TO GET DOWNTOWN INTO MY SWEETIE'S ARMS AND--
UH-OH! I JUST REMEMBERED! M.J.'S GONNA HAVE TO WAIT!
I LEFT MY MOM AND DAD AT THAT INDIAN RESTAURANT ... RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF LUNCH! AND THAT WAS HOURS AGO!
GOD, THEY MUST BE WORRIED SICK!
WELL... I SUPPOSE THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT I HAVE A MOTHER AND FATHER WORRYING ABOUT ME, IT'S WHAT I DREAMED ABOUT MY WHOLE LIFE.
I USED TO SIT IN MY ROOM WHEN I WAS A KID AND FANTASIZE ABOUT THEM WALKING IN THE DOOR.
"HI, PETER, WE'RE HOME! SORRY IT'S TAKEN US SO LONG, BUT WE PARACHUTED OUT OF THAT EXPLODING PLANE INTO THE MIDDLE OF AN AFRICAN JUNGLE--
"--AND IT TOOK A WHILE FOR TARZAN TO GET US OUT!"
BUT EVEN THEN I DIDN'T REALLY BELIEVE IT WAS POSSIBLE. IN MY HEART OF HEARTS, I KNEW THEY WERE GONE. PEOPLE JUST DON'T COME BACK FROM THE DEAD.
SO WHAT HAPPENS? MY PARENTS COME BACK FROM THE DEAD! WITH A STORY MORE FAR-FETCHED THAN ANYTHING I COULD'VE DREAMED UP WHEN I WAS EIGHT YEARS OLD!
--AND IT TURNED OUT TO BE ANOTHER SICKO SCHEME HATCHED BY ONE OF MY SICKO ENEMIES.
I HATE TO BE SO SUSPICIOUS OF THEM... BUT THIS HAS HAPPENED TO ME BEFORE. GWEN STACY CAME STROLLING BACK FROM THE GRAVE--
I CAN'T GO THROUGH THAT AGAIN! I JUST CAN'T!
I DUNNO. MAYBE MY YEARS AS SPIDER-MAN HAVE MADE ME TOO CAUTIOUS... TOO CYNICAL. WHY CAN'T I BELIEVE THAT SOMETHING GOOD IS HAPPENING FOR ONCE--
MAKE MINE MARVEL
--AND REACH OUT MY ARMS TO EMBRACE THAT GOOD?
WELL... NOBODY SAID HAVING PARENTS WAS EASY! LOOK AT WHAT MARY JANE WENT THROUGH... AND POOR HARRY--!

COULD BE I WAS BETTER OFF AS AN ORPHAN! AUNT MAY AND UNCLE BEN WERE BETTER THAN PARENTS! THEY WERE--
ENOUGH ALREADY! I COULD KEEP GOING 'ROUND AND 'ROUND IN THIS LOOP FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE!
BEST THING IS TO HEAD OVER TO AUNT MAY'S AND LET EVERY-ONE KNOW I'M OKAY.
NOT THAT IT WOULDN'T BE EASIER TO GO HOME AND HIDE UNDER THE COVERS!
WHAT TIME IS IT, MAY?
ALMOST SEVEN.
SEVEN? I...I THINK WE SHOULD CALL THE POLICE! WHAT IF HE'S HURT? WHAT IF HE'S--
THANK YOU, MAY.
MARY-- YOU...YOU WORRY TOO MUCH.
PETER'S BEEN DOING THIS PHOTOG-RAPHY OF HIS SINCE HE WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL-- AND HE'S NEVER GOTTEN HIMSELF INTO TROUBLE YET.
HE'S A VERY CAUTIOUS AND CAPABLE YOUNG MAN... NOT SOME HELP-LESS LITTLE CHILD WHO--
YOU DON'T HAVE TO RUB IT IN, MAY!
EXCUSE ME--?
YOU THINK IT DOESN'T WOUND US TO KNOW WE HAVEN'T BEEN HERE TO WATCH OUR SON GROW UP? THAT WE LOST PRECIOUS YEARS WE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO GET BACK?
MARY... DEAR... I NEVER MEANT TO--
OF COURSE YOU DIDN'T, MAY. AND MARY DIDN'T MEAN ANY-THING, EITHER. SHE'S JUST A LITTLE ON EDGE.
AND THE FACT IS, EVERYTHING YOU SAID IS TRUE. I TOLD MARY ALMOST THE SAME EXACT THING BEFORE WE LEFT MANHATTAN THIS AFTERNOON.
PETER'S A FULL-GROWN MAN... A PROFESSIONAL CRIME-PHOTOGRAPHER. HE KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT HE'S--
IT'S HIM!
HELLO...?
SEE? WHAT DID I TELL YOU? NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

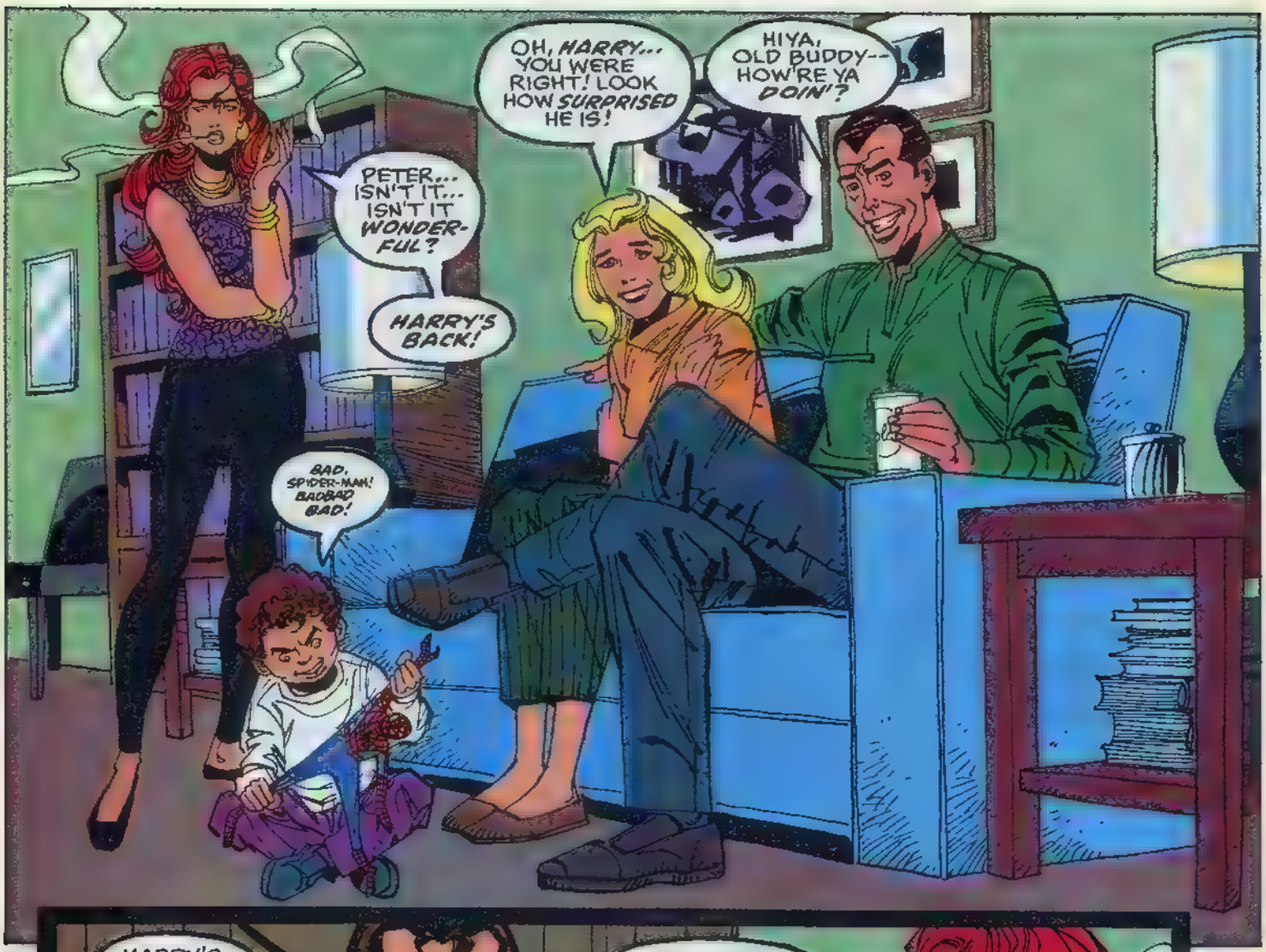
OH! YOU'RE ALL IN HERE!
HOPE NOBODY GOT ANY NEW GRAY HAIRS WONDERING WHERE I--
WHO THE DEVIL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!
HUH?!
OF ALL THE ARROGANT, INCONSIDERATE--!
YOU JUST VANISH LIKE THAT... IN THE MIDDLE OF SUCH A DANGEROUS SITUATION... AND THEN COME WALTZING IN HERE LIKE THERE'S NOTHING WRONG?!
RICHARD... DON'T!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT A NERVOUS WRECK YOUR MOTHER'S BEEN? DO YOU KNOW WHAT A STRAIN YOU'VE--
HEY--
--DON'T POINT YOUR FINGER IN MY FACE. AND DON'T TALK TO ME LIKE I'M SOME PIMPLE-FACED TEENAGER WHO'S COME HOME AFTER CURFEW.
I'M SORRY IF YOU WERE WORRIED... I REALLY AM... BUT I HAD A JOB TO DO... A VERY IMPORTANT JOB... AND I DID IT.
NOW JUST A MINUTE, SON--
"SON"? MISTER-- I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOU! SO DON'T THINK YOU CAN COME BARGING INTO MY LIFE LIKE WARD CLEAVER-- TELLING ME HOW TO LIVE, OKAY?
DON'T YOU DARE TELL ME HOW TO LIVE!

PETER...
...I'M SORRY.
ME, TOO.
THIS ISN'T EASY, FOR ANY OF US. NO ONE'S SURE WHAT TO SAY... HOW TO ACT... WHAT'S EXPECTED OF US.
I KEEP TRYING TO FIT SOME IMAGE OF WHAT A FATHER IS... YOU KEEP TRYING TO FIT SOME IMAGE OF A SON... AND BOTH OF US ARE SCREWING UP.
MUCH AS IT BREAKS MY HEART TO ADMIT IT... YOU'RE RIGHT. I DON'T KNOW YOU. I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOUR LIFE HAS BEEN LIKE... YOUR STRUGGLES, YOUR PAIN--
--BUT PETER--
--YOU DON'T KNOW ME, EITHER.
YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IT WAS LIKE FOR ME ALL THOSE YEARS. ... FOR YOUR POOR MOTHER... LOCKED AWAY IN THAT HELLISH PRISON... TREATED LIKE--
I...I CAN'T EVEN TALK ABOUT IT.
THE POINT IS... WE'RE MYSTERIES TO EACH OTHER--
--AND I THINK WE OWE IT TO OURSELVES TO TRY AND PIERCE THE MYSTERY. TRY AND UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER.
MAYBE WE CAN NEVER REALLY BE FATHER AND SON--
--BUT, AT THE VERY LEAST, I HOPE WE CAN BE FRIENDS.
WE CAN TRY.

...BETWEEN PLAY-TIME WITH PROFESSOR POWER AND THAT BLOWOUT WITH MY FA--WITH RICHARD...I'M TOTALLY EXHAUSTED--PHYSICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY.
THE LAST THING I WANT TO BE DOING RIGHT NOW IS RIDING A WEB LINE FROM QUEENS TO MANHATTAN. I JUST WANT TO TAKE IT EASY... SHUT OUT THE WORLD.
THE WAY I FEEL I COULD JUST STAY ON THE TRAIN AND RIDE IT BACK AND FORTH ALL NIGHT LONG.
A LOT OF PEOPLE CAN'T STAND THE NEW YORK SUBWAYS...ME--I'VE ALWAYS LOVED 'EM. IT'S LIKE BEING IN A COCOON UNDER THE WORLD!
I REMEMBER WHEN AUNT MAY AND UNCLE BEN USED TO TAKE ME INTO THE CITY AT CHRISTMAS-TIME...TO SEE THE BIG TREE AND CATCH THE SHOW AT RADIO CITY...I'D ENJOY THE TRAIN RIDE MOST OF ALL.
BEST PART'D BE WHEN WE'D RIDE IN THE FIRST CAR... UNCLE BEN'D HOLD ME UP--
--AND I'D WATCH THE TRAIN WHIP DOWN THOSE TUNNELS--
HEY, GORGEOUS--THIS SEAT TAKEN?
FREE COUNTRY.
UNFORTUNATELY.
YOU'RE PRETTY HOT, Y'KNOW THAT? GREAT LEGS.
LOOK, I'M READING MY BOOK, OKAY?
WHADDAYA WANNA READ A BOOK FOR WHEN YOU CAN BE MAKIN' NEW FRIENDS? MY NAME'S IRA...WHAT'S YOURS?
NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS. NOW GET YOUR HAND OFF OF ME.
SOME-TIMES I THINK IT'D BE THE GREAT-EST KICK TO BE FIVE AGAIN--
--GO BACK AND SEE THE WORLD WITH THAT KIND OF INNOCENCE AND ENTHUSIASM. SHAKE OFF ALL THE --
I SAID TAKE YOUR HAND OFF OF ME!
C'MON... I'M JUST TRYIN' TO MAKE FRIENDS!
OH... GREAT.
SOMETIMES I THINK THEY MUST BREED JERKS LIKE HIM IN A SECRET LABORATORY SOMEWHERE.
HEY--YOU HEARD THE LADY... LEAVE HER ALONE. GO BOTHER SOME-ONE ELSE.
OH, YEAH?
BRILLIANT COMEBACK.
WELL, MAYBE I'LL JUST COME AN' BOTHER--

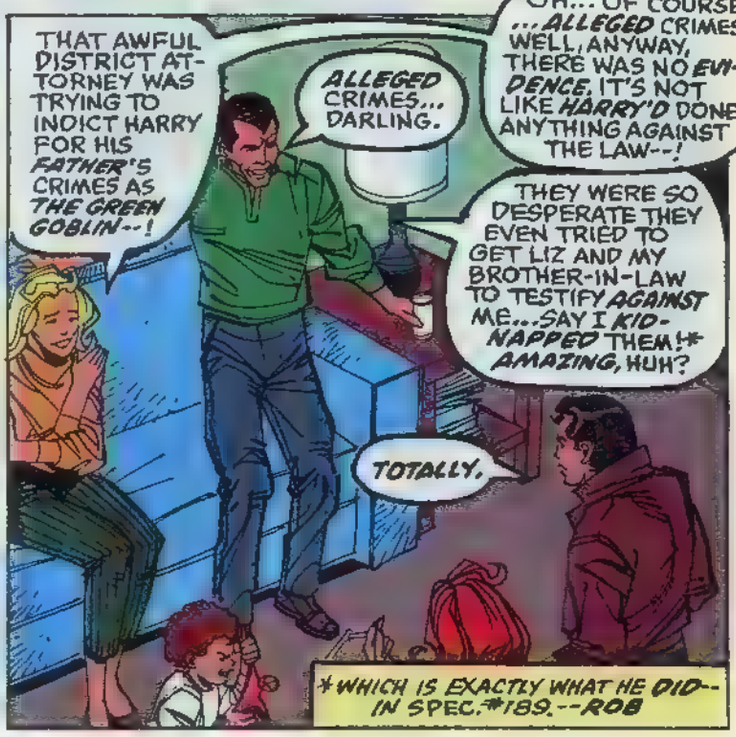
--YOU! WHADDAYA THINK ABOUT THAT, HUH?!
BEST WAY T'DEAL WITH A GUY LIKE THIS IS GIVE 'IM THE "NEW YORK RESPONSE"-- JUST KEEP MY EYES STRAIGHT AHEAD.
PRETEND HE'S NOT EVEN THERE.
HEY... HEY... I'M TALKIN' T'YOU!
I DON'T HEAR ANYTHING. DO YOU HEAR ANYTHING? ME? NOPE. NOT A WORD. CAN'T SEE HIM... CAN'T HEAR HIM--
NOW IF I COULD ONLY FILTER OUT HIS BREATH, I'D--
DON'T IGNORE ME! I HATE IT WHEN PEOPLE IGNORE ME!
AND--
--I--
--HATE--
--IT--
--WHEN PEOPLE STICK THEIR FINGERS IN MY FACE!
YOU UNDERSTAND ME, PUNK?!
HEY... HEY, MAN... MY WRIST! MY WRIST!
WHAT AM I DOING?!
LEMME GO... YOU'RE HURTIN' ME!

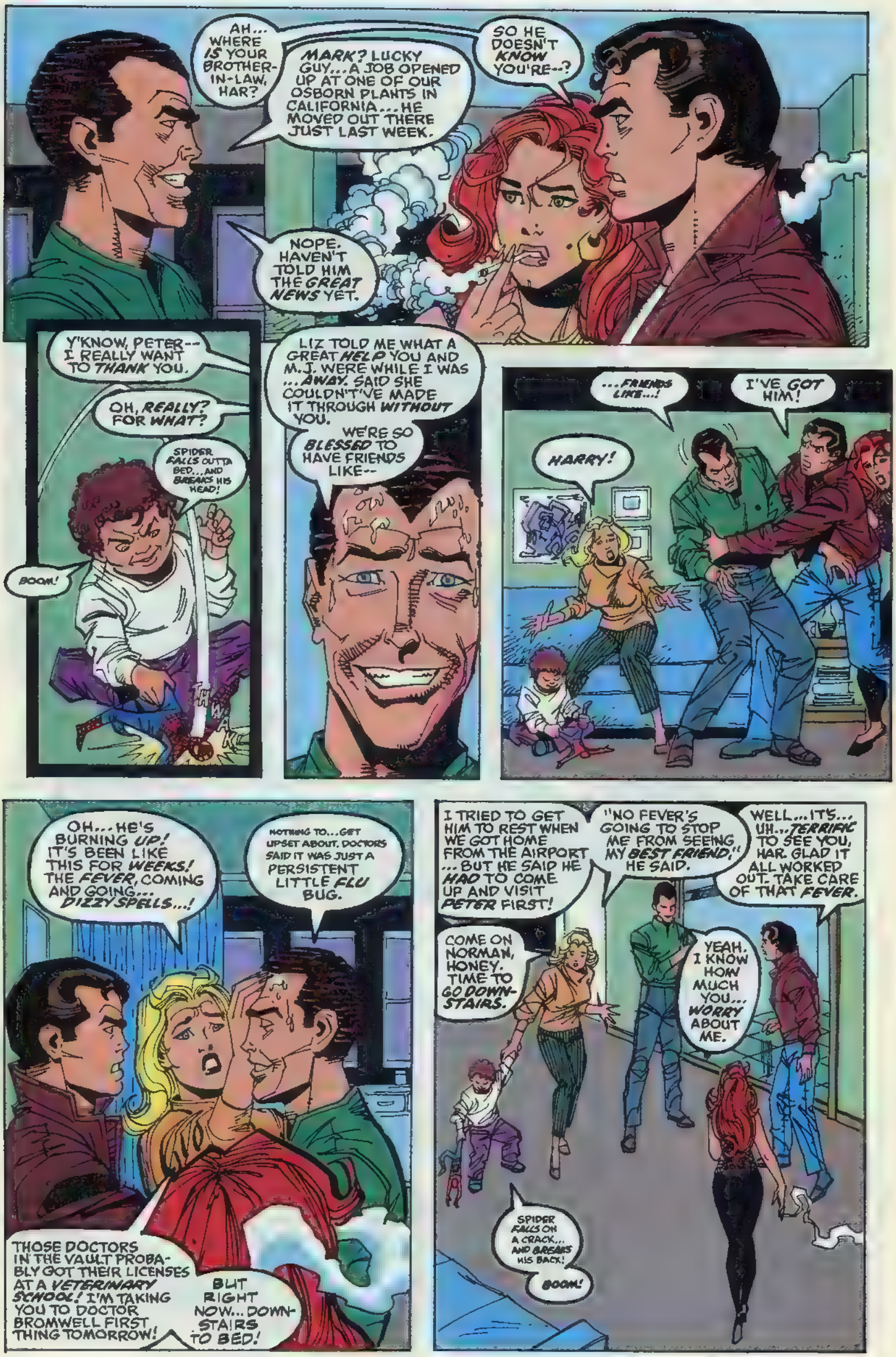
...UNBELIEVABLE! I NEARLY SHATTERED THE KID'S WRIST WITHOUT EVEN THINKING!
STUPID, PARKER... REALLY STUPID!
THAT WASN'T THE VULTURE OR VENOM... SURE, HE NEEDED TO BE STRAIGHTENED OUT--
--BUT I ALMOST WENT TOO FAR!
WHEN I'M WOUND UP THIS TIGHT... THE LINE BETWEEN SPIDER-MAN AND PETER PARKER GETS MIGHTY THIN... AND A LITTLE TOO EASY TO CROSS.
I TRY SO HARD TO KEEP A BALANCE BETWEEN THE TWO-- AND I'VE DONE A PRETTY GOOD JOB OF IT.
BUT THIS BUSINESS WITH MY PARENTS--! IT'S STARTING TO WEAR ME DOWN!
THEY'RE MY MOTHER AND FATHER! I SHOULD TRUST THEM MORE THAN ANYONE... BUT I DON'T! I DON'T TRUST THEM AT ALL!
NO TRUCKS
IT'S NO WONDER I'M LOSING MY BALANCE!
I WAS FEELING THE SAME WAY BEFORE MY RUN-IN WITH BLACK CROW*--EDGY... PARANOID--AND HE HELPED ME FIND MY CENTER... A PLACE IN MY HEART THAT REMAINS FOCUSED, STEADY, NO MATTER HOW MUCH LIFE CHANGES AROUND ME--
AH--HOME AT LAST!
*IN SPEC #192-- ROB
I OWE IT TO MYSELF... TO M.J. AND AUNT MAY ...NOT TO LOSE THAT PLACE...OR WE'RE ALL GOING TO BE SWALLOWED UP BY THE CHAOS OF--
SPIDER-
MAN'S
WORLD?!
NO! IT CAN'T BE!


OH, HARRY... YOU WERE RIGHT! LOOK HOW SURPRISED HE IS!
HIYA, OLD BUDDY-- HOW'RE YA DOIN'?
PETER... ISN'T IT... ISN'T IT WONDER-FUL?
HARRY'S BACK!
BAD, SPIDER-MAN! BADBAD BAD!

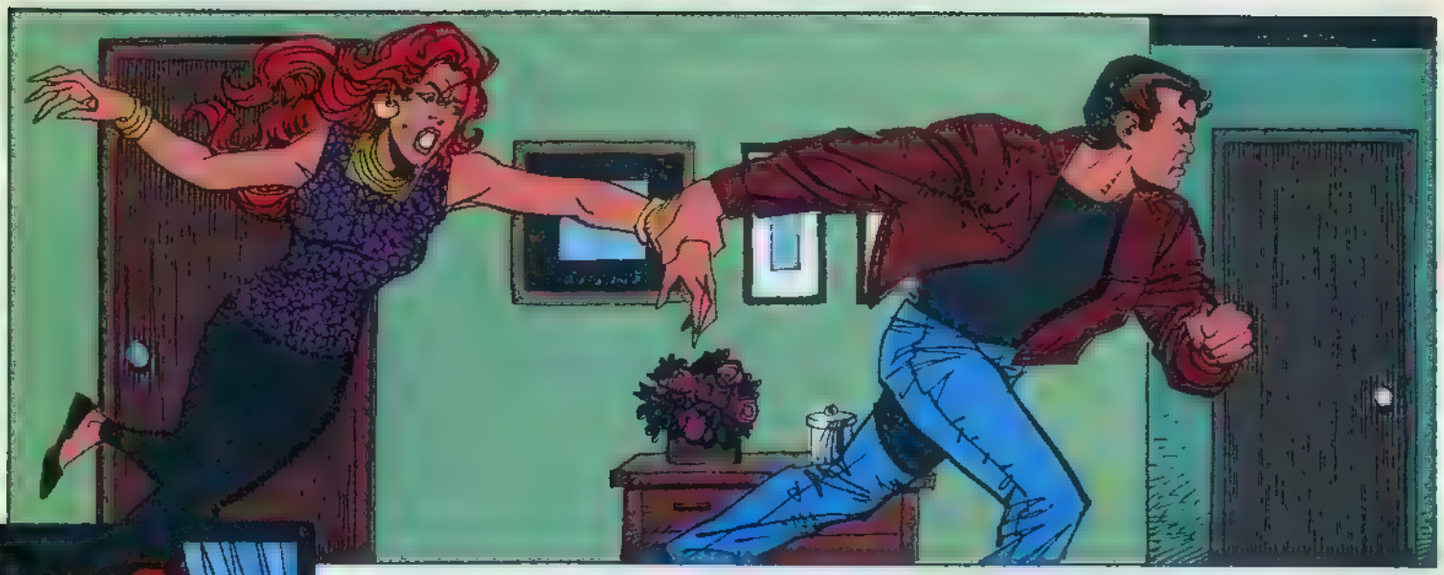
HARRY'S ...BACK?
BUT...HE WAS IN THE VAULT!*
YES...IT'S... IT'S INCREDIBLE, ISN'T IT? THEY LET HIM OUT!
BUT-- WHY?
* PRISON FOR SUPER-CRIMINALS. --ROB

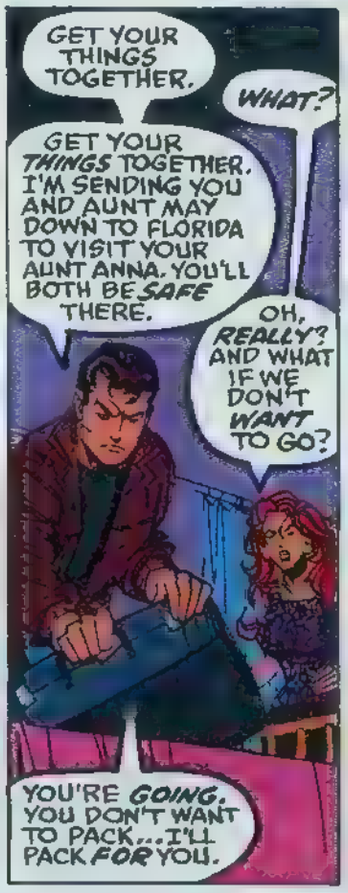
THOUGHT I'D BE LOCKED AWAY IN THERE FOREVER, DIDN'T YOU? FRANKLY, SO DID I.
LUCKY FOR ME THE LAW FIRM OF BRODSKY AND YOUDELMAN HAD OTHER IDEAS.
THEY KNEW THE PROSECU-TION HAD NO CASE AGAINST ME...AND THEY PROVED IT, GOT 'EM TO DROP THE CHARGES.


THAT AWFUL DISTRICT AT-TORNEY WAS TRYING TO INDICT HARRY FOR HIS FATHER'S CRIMES AS THE GREEN GOBLIN--!
ALLEGED CRIMES... DARLING.
OH... OF COURSE ...ALLEGED CRIMES. WELL, ANYWAY, THERE WAS NO EVI-DENCE. IT'S NOT LIKE HARRY'D DONE ANYTHING AGAINST THE LAW--!
THEY WERE SO DESPERATE THEY EVEN TRIED TO GET LIZ AND MY BROTHER-IN-LAW TO TESTIFY AGAINST ME...SAY I KID-NAPPED THEM!* AMAZING, HUH?
TOTALLY.
* WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT HE DID-- IN SPEC.#189.--ROB


AH... WHERE IS YOUR BROTHER-IN-LAW, HAR?
MARK? LUCKY GUY... A JOB OPENED UP AT ONE OF OUR OSBORN PLANTS IN CALIFORNIA... HE MOVED OUT THERE JUST LAST WEEK.
SO HE DOESN'T KNOW YOU'RE--?
NOPE. HAVEN'T TOLD HIM THE GREAT NEWS YET.
Y'KNOW, PETER-- I REALLY WANT TO THANK YOU.
OH, REALLY? FOR WHAT?
SPIDER FALLS OUTTA BED... AND BREAKS HIS HEAD!
BOOM!
LIZ TOLD ME WHAT A GREAT HELP YOU AND M.J. WERE WHILE I WAS ...AWAY. SAID SHE COULDN'T'VE MADE IT THROUGH WITHOUT YOU.
WE'RE SO BLESSED TO HAVE FRIENDS LIKE--
...FRIENDS LIKE...!
I'VE GOT HIM!
HARRY!
OH... HE'S BURNING UP! IT'S BEEN LIKE THIS FOR WEEKS! THE FEVER, COMING AND GOING... DIZZY SPELLS...!
NOTHING TO... GET UPSET ABOUT. DOCTORS SAID IT WAS JUST A PERSISTENT LITTLE FLU BUG.
THOSE DOCTORS IN THE VAULT PROBABLY GOT THEIR LICENSES AT A VETERINARY SCHOOL! I'M TAKING YOU TO DOCTOR BROMWELL FIRST THING TOMORROW!
BUT RIGHT NOW... DOWNSTAIRS TO BED!
I TRIED TO GET HIM TO REST WHEN WE GOT HOME FROM THE AIRPORT ... BUT HE SAID HE HAD TO COME UP AND VISIT PETER FIRST!
"NO FEVER'S GOING TO STOP ME FROM SEEING MY BEST FRIEND," HE SAID.
WELL... IT'S... UH... TERRIFIC TO SEE YOU, HAR. GLAD IT ALL WORKED OUT. TAKE CARE OF THAT FEVER.
COME ON NORMAN, HONEY. TIME TO GO DOWNSTAIRS.
YEAH. I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU... WORRY ABOUT ME.
SPIDER FALLS ON A CRACK... AND BREAKS HIS BACK!
BOOM!

IT REALLY IS GREAT TO SEE YOU. BOTH OF YOU.
WE'VE ALL BEEN THROUGH SO MUCH TOGETHER, HAVEN'T WE? COLLEGE AND MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN AND... SO MANY OTHER THINGS.
LIFE'S FUNNY, ISN'T IT? FUNNY--
--AND SAD.
AH, WELL... 'BYE NOW! SEE YOU SOON!
REAL--
--SOON.
OH... PETER--
--WHAT'RE WE GOING TO DO?
PETER...?




GET YOUR THINGS TOGETHER.
WHAT?
GET YOUR THINGS TOGETHER. I'M SENDING YOU AND AUNT MAY DOWN TO FLORIDA TO VISIT YOUR AUNT ANNA. YOU'LL BOTH BE SAFE THERE.
OH, REALLY? AND WHAT IF WE DON'T WANT TO GO?
YOU'RE GOING. YOU DON'T WANT TO PACK... I'LL PACK FOR YOU.

THAT'S MY DIRTY LAUNDRY. MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO THROW IN SOME OF YOUR OLD SOCKS, TOO?
MARY JANE-- THE GREEN GOBLIN IS LIVING DOWN-STAIRS! HE'S MY--
HE'S YOUR ARCH-ENEMY AND HE KNOWS YOUR SECRET IDENTITY... AND HE'LL DO EVERY-THING IN HIS POWER TO DESTROY YOU.

I READ COMIC BOOKS TOO, WHEN I WAS A KID.
THIS ISN'T A JOKE!
HARRY'S SICK... CRAZY ...OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN HOW HE NEARLY DESTROYED OUR LIVES A FEW MONTHS AGO?!

OF COURSE I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN! I'M NOT IN DENIAL LIKE LIZ! BUT IF YOU THINK I'M GOING TO SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE RUNNING FROM HARRY OSBORN YOU'RE--
I DON'T WANT YOU TO DO ANY SUCH THING-- I JUST WANT YOU OUT OF HERE TILL I FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO ABOUT HIM!

YOU WANT--? I THOUGHT WE WERE PARTNERS! I THOUGHT WE WORKED OUT OUR PROBLEMS TOGETHER!
OF COURSE WE DO, BUT--

BUT ONLY WHEN THE BIG, MACHO SUPER HERO SAYS SO, RIGHT?
PETER... EITHER WE'RE IN THIS THING TOGETHER ...OR WE'RE NOT IN IT AT ALL!
M.J, C'MON-- IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE--!
I...I CAN'T TALK ABOUT THIS NOW!
WAIT A MINUTE! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
OUT! I'M JUST GOING OUT!
BUT YOU CAN'T JUST--
WATCH ME!
SLAM!

KRAKK!

NO, HARRY. YOU'RE NOT GONNA DO THIS TO US.

NOT AGAIN.

BULLPEN BULLETINS

MARVEL COMICS

FABE'S RAVES

When Mark Gruenwald asked me to write one of these things, I jumped at the chance to plug WONDER MAN in this space. Quite simply, I think it's one of Marvel's strongest — and least recognized — super hero titles (after NEW WARRIORS, of course). From day one, we've had **Gerard Jones** writing stories which explored both the humorous aspects of Hollywood's hottest hero — and the emotionally painful sides of Simon Williams as well. Combined with the artistic talents of **Jeff Johnson** and **Dan Panosian**, the letters of **Pat Brosseau** and the vibrant colors of **Joe Rosas**, I felt WONDY was one of the smoothest reads and slickest looking books we had.

So why is it such a well-kept secret?

Well, maybe because we haven't done enough to shake things up for Simon. That changes *now*. Simon has a major four-part storyline coming up between issues #22 through #25 which will dig deeper into the character's life, personality, and powers than ever before. Wonder Man will literally have to go to the depths of Hades to save not only his best friend's life — but also salvage what is left of his tortured soul. The storyline will feature the villainy of the Grim Reaper, the Enchantress, and the spirits of Baron Zemo and the Executioner! But wait, there's more! Wondy will also have to face down *Blackheart*, the son of Mephisto — which will lead to a confrontation with the Master of Darkness himself!

That sounds like a lot going on in Wonder Man's life, doesn't it? Well, I haven't even mentioned the *new costume* to debut in issue #25. Or the four interlocking covers which will be inserted as a poster into that exciting giant-sized issue. Or a very interesting romantic encounter between Wonder Man and his long-time dalliance, the *Scarlet Witch*.

Yes, we are giving WONDER MAN a major kick in the butt to get as many of you out there as possible to sample the book. For our regular readers, this is a natural progression in the storyline. For new readers — hold onto your underwear 'cause we're gonna move so fast and furious, you're gonna wind up with a Wondy-Wedgie!

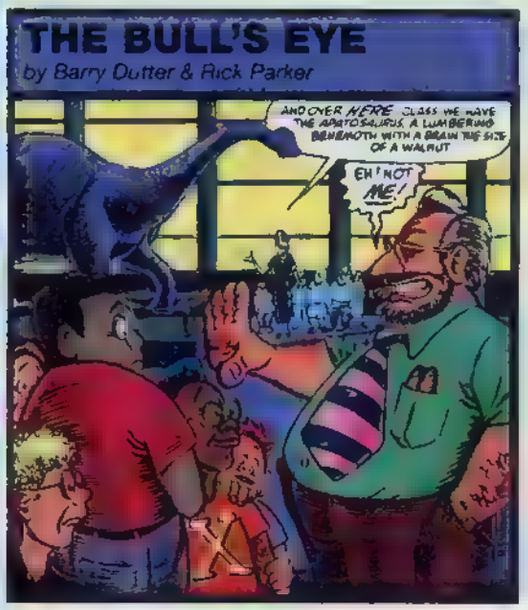
FABIAN

— Fabian Nicieza
(Pronounced just like it's spelled)

February is like the Herve Villechaize of months. When compared to something like January, which has as many days as Baskin Robins has flavors, February just comes up short. Since February is such a homunculus of a month, we'll keep this week's column limited to short subjects.

THE BULL'S EYE

by Barry Dutter & Rick Parker



One subject we never paid enough attention to in school was history. If we had, we would have learned more about the time when dinosaurs ruled the earth (until a royal scandal rocked the dinosaur world). Fortunately, we now have a chance to catch up on our dino-knowledge with the ultra-prehistoric four-issue DINOSAURS limited series. (We're talking *real* dinosaurs here, not that completely inaccurate Simpsons/Honeymooners rip you see on TV on Friday nights.)

On November 14 of last year, the creators of Marvel's DINOSAURS held a signing at the far-famed British Museum of Natural History. Said creators also offered to carve their names in the walls of the museum, as our caveman brothers would have done so long ago, but that offer was received about as warmly as the next Ice Age. Among the dino-creators gathered 'round the tar pits were artists **John Bolton, Kevin Hopgood,** and **Garry Leach,** as well as writers **Dan Abnett, Nick Vince, Graham Marks,** and editor **Steve White.** Scientific consultant/paleontologist **Mike Howgate** was also on hand, to make sure no one made off with any dinosaur bones as souvenirs. In explaining the popularity of dinosaurs, Steve White said, "They were monsters that were real. They were not just fairy tales!"

One fairy tale that never seems to have a happy ending is the saga of the bagpiping escapades of **Hildy Mesnik**'s assistant editor, "Professor" **James Felder.** "Professor Pipes," as he's known around the office, recently was written up in the *New York Times* — and for once, it wasn't on the police blotter! The Pop & Jazz page featured a piece on the Prof's pulse-pounding performance at the Knitting Factory (covered on this page last week). The *Times* described Professor Felder's playing as "often amusing" and "occasionally uninspired." Ironically, those are the very words we so often use to describe the Professor!

One group that never fails to inspire us is the hard-core mock and roll band, *Green Jello!* If you thought *Kiss* was outrageous in the 1970s, wait till you see Green Jello! These guys dress up in costumes so outrageous, they make the X-Men look like mutants! Green Jello has a funkadelic video and five song CD out in stores now, with an album on the way. Since emerging from the refrigerator, the band has been touring the country, hitting up various night clubs and comic book conventions, including the San Diego Comics Con. Needless to say, these guys are big-time Marveloids from way back when Jerry Lee Lewis was wearing blue suede baby booties. And just the other week the GJ gang came up to the Marvel offices to take a squint at the House of Ideas while we got a gander of them!

We could go on and on, but we'll cut it short! Till next time, remember — everything singer Randy Newman said about short people was somewhat short-sighted!

HYPELINE: ON SALE THIS WEEK

- ☐ **BARBIE FASHION #28:** Barbie's an artist! Well, hello Dali!
- ☐ **BLACK AXE #1:** It's a cut above the rest! Cover by John Romita Jr.
- ☐ **CODENAME: GENETIX #4 of 4:** A Prime Evil battle in the **Savage Land!**
- ☐ **CONAN SAGA #73:** Conan's lost his soul! Psst — check under the couch!
- ☐ **DEATHLOK #22:** Magnum's taking over **Wakanda** — and we don't mean Tom Selleck!
- ☒ **DR. STRANGE #52:** Doc's looking for **Morbius's** soul! Maybe Conan has seen it!
- ☐ **DOCTOR WHO CLASSIC COMICS #4:** Featuring the third doctor — but who's counting?
- ☒ **FANTASTIC FOUR #375:** An ultra-violet cover on an ultra-violent 48-page issue!
- ☐ **GHOST RIDER/BLAZE: SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE #9:** What's that smell? It's a new villain, **Brimstone!**
- ☐ **HELLSTORM #1:** Who could the father be of this demonic super hero? Could it be maybe ... **Satan?**
- ☐ **THE INCOMPLETE DEATH'S HEAD #4 Of 12:** When the sky-train is hijacked, Death's Head finds himself ... under siege!
- ☐ **IRON MAN #291:** Tony vs. Rhodey — war of the Iron Men! It's a heavy metal hoedown!
- ☐ **MARVEL SPOTLIGHT:** Formerly MARVEL REQUIRED! Still free!
- ☐ **MARVEL UNIVERSE MASTER EDITION #29:** With **Sabretooth, U.S.Agent,** and Banana Man!
- ☐ **METEOR MAN #1:** 64 page movie adaptation that will hit you like a rock from the sky!
- ☐ **MOON KNIGHT #49:** Moon Knight takes a stand against **Deadzone!**
- ☐ **MOTORMOUTH #11:** If Motormouth can't escape from Mys-Tech, she'll be Mys-Tech **pizza!**
- ☐ **MYS-TECH WARS #2 of 4:** It's UK and US heroes, 2gether 4 U 2 N-joy!
- ☐ **THE 'NAM #79:** A Michael Golden cover on the Tet offensive!
- ☐ **NEW WARRIORS #34:** The Darkforce possesses **Spider-Man, the Avengers,** and **Darkhawk!**
- ☐ **PUNISHER 2099 #3:** If you don't like Gallows humor, stay away!
- ☐ **PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL #53:** Punisher and Ice turn up the heat!
- ☐ **SILVER SURFER #79:** Surf finds two refugees from the **Kree/Shi'Ar War!**
- ☒ **SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #199:** The Green Goblin and the X-Men stop by!
- ☐ **WILLIAM SHATNER'S TEKWORLD #8:** It's Shatner-rific!
- ☐ **THOR #461: Beta Ray Bill** is gunning for Thor!
- ☐ **TOXIC CRUSADERS #2 of 4:** They'll flush pollution right down the bowl!
- ☐ **VENOM # 3 of 6:** A lynch mob wants to string up Venom by his webs!
- ☐ **X-FORCE #21:** Goin' head-to-head with ol' Shell-Head ... **Iron Man!**
- ☐ **X-MEN CLASSIC #82:** He ain't heavy ... he's my **Brotherhood of Evil Mutants!**

ALL-NEW ONE SHOTS! FLASH MEMORY! CAPES! BULLPEN BOOTCAMP! HEATH'S BAD HABITS! AMAZING ON POINTS CASE STUDIES!

...STOP PLAYING WITH YOUR DOLL, NORMIE-- AND LET ME GET THIS ON.
CHOKE THE SPIDER... BREAK HIS NECK... CHOKE THE SPIDER... BREAK HIS NECK--
IT'S WAY PAST YOUR--
PUMPUMPUMPUMPUM!
WHO IN THE WORLD--?!
PETER--?
WHERE'S HARRY? I'M SORRY, LIZ... BUT I HAVE TO TALK TO HIM... RIGHT NOW.
Y-YOU CAN'T--
BADBAD BADBAD-BAD!
LOOK, I KNOW HE'S SICK, BUT THIS IS IMPORTANT. SO GET HIM OUT OF BED AND--
PETER--HE'S NOT IN BED.
HARRY'S NOT HERE.
WHAT?!
I...I THINK HE WAS JUST SO EXCITED ABOUT BEING HOME. SAID HE COULDN'T SLEEP. SO HE WENT OUT TO GET A PAPER. YOU KNOW, HARRY--
--HIS DAY'S NOT COMPLETE UNLESS HE'S READ HIS BUGLE.
WHERE, LIZ? WHERE DID HE GO TO GET THE PAPER?! I'VE GOT TO FIND HIM BEFORE--
NO! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!
PETER...YOU'RE A DEAR FRIEND... I--I'M REALLY TOUCHED BY YOUR CONCERN. BUT HARRY'LL BE FINE. I PROMISE I'LL GET HIM INTO BED AS SOON AS HE COMES BACK.
REALLY, PETER--
--THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

...NOW THAT WAS A SCENE WORTHY OF MY MOTHER! SHE WAS ALWAYS ONE FOR SCREAMING AND DOOR-SLAMMING. HIGH MELODRAMA.
NO WONDER I GREW UP TO BE AN ACTRESS.
I DON'T KNOW WHY I CARRIED ON LIKE THAT...OH, YES I DO! I'M SICK OF IT ALL! SICK TO MY STOMACH!
I KNEW WHAT I WAS GETTING INTO WHEN I MARRIED PETER... PART OF THE REASON WHY I LOVE HIM SO MUCH IS BECAUSE OF HIS COURAGE... THE WAY HE PUTS HIMSELF ON THE LINE, AGAIN AND AGAIN, TO PROTECT PEOPLE--
HIS HEART IS SO BIG. HE CARES SO MUCH.
BUT I GUESS I ALWAYS THOUGHT WE COULD KEEP THINGS...I DON'T KNOW... COMPARTMENTALIZED. SPIDER-MAN OVER HERE... PETER AND MJ OVER THERE...AND NEVER THE TWAIN SHALL MEET--
BUT, LATELY--! VENOM... THE VULTURE ...HARRY, MOST OF ALL.
ALL OF THEM INVADING OUR LIVES... VIOLATING US! IT SCARES ME. REALLY SCARES ME.
EVERY TIME PETER GOES OUT, I'M AFRAID IT'S THE LAST TIME I'LL SEE HIM. THAT ONE OF THOSE MANIACS WILL FINALLY KILL HIM ...OR COME AFTER ME OR MAY TO GET BACK AT HIM--
I TRY TO KEEP IT FROM PETER. PLAY THE STALWART WIFE--
--BUT IT'S ALL BECOMING TOO--
MARY JANE--

--WE HAVE TO TALK.
NEXT:
OUR GIANT-SIZED 200th ISSUE! SPIDEY VERSUS THE GREEN GOBLIN...
TO THE DEATH!

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAIL

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

ROB TOKAR
EDITOR
DAN CUDDY
ASSISTANT EDITOR
DANNY FINGEROTH
GROUP EDITOR

Attention correspondents: All letters considered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon request.

Spectacular Spider-Mail,

Once more, with "The Death of Vermin" storyline, the current creative team succeeds in moving the focus from just Spider-Man and on to all of the various players - Dr. Kafka, Baron Zemo , Vermin and even the Mutates. With four regular titles and countless guest appearances elsewhere Spider-Man was in danger of over-exposure, which could lead to a certain amount of staleness in the character. By shifting the emphasis from being entirely on Spider-Man and putting it on the supporting cast and villains you've succeeded in making SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN the one Spider-Man title to have taken a different approach to its storytelling in a long time. In this title in recent months we've come to understand exactly what each villain featured is all about in great depth. We've seen exactly what drives them and exactly what their motivations are, and not just in the superficial sense of "villain X" returning because he or she wants revenge. In many cases we're seeing the potential that's always been there in villains like the Green Goblin and the Vulture finally realized and in some cases like the Rhino, we've seen potential that we were never even aware was there. Who's next for this treatment?

Andy Oliver
38 Sycamore Ave.
Upminster
Essex
RM14 2HR
England

Thanks, Andy! Well, you know what they say, a super hero is only as dynamic as the villains he's up against! Not to worry, no one is safe from the "treatment".

Dear Rob,

Of late I've noticed that each of the four Spider-Man books has had its own distinctive style of stories, which I feel is very important. If you had four comics with the same characters and the same types of stories, it could get old fast.

Anyway, the book you edit, SPECTACULAR, seems to have the theme of dark, brooding stories that explore the inner recesses of the human mind (or something like that). I have to say that J.M. DeMatteis has succeeded in writing these types of stories without having them come across as pretentious (I just hope this letter doesn't sound pretentious). Sure, there've been a few corny moments here and there but, overall, it's gone very well. "The Child Within", "Funeral Arrangements", and The Death of Vermin" have all been spectacular (no pun intended).

Now comes the latest of DeMatteis's story arcs, a team-up with the X-Men involving Professor Power's vendetta against them. The situation is perfect for DeMatteis to develop. He's brought new life to a very long, drawn out storyline.

SPECTACULAR #197 was great. DeMatteis's characterizations of the X-Men were so perfect, I could almost swear I was reading their own book. Peter Parker's quest for acceptance from his parents in both his regular identity and as his alter ego was great. But perhaps the best character of all was Power. On this issue, he became one of the most three-dimensional villains ever to fight Spidey. His thirst for vengeance, contrasted with his mourning for his son and his regret at his actions, was a very realistic personality mix. "How can anyone understand? To lose your child. To lose your first-born son!" What great dialogue. I wonder how Power would react if he'd found out Xavier had lost his first-born son. I'd love to see DeMatteis handle a scene like that.

Before I end this letter, I'd also like to mention that Sal Buscema's moody artwork has in no little way helped establish the atmosphere of this book. The team of DeMatteis and Buscema is one of the best in comics today and if I were you I'd keep them for a long time, and I look forward to seeing more by them in these pages.

Ben Herman
New Rochelle, NY

You're right, Ben, we try to give each Spidey title its own mood. It'd be pretty boring if they were all the same, eh?! Thanks for the praise. We agree that we have an excellent creative team too.

NEXT ISSUE: SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #200! OUR GIANT SIZE ANNIVERSARY BLOCKBUSTER! A NEVER-TO-BE-FORGOTTEN MILESTONE IN COMIC BOOK HISTORY! A MAJOR TURNING POINT IN THE SPIDER-MAN MYTHOS! THE WEB-SLINGER'S FINAL BATTLE WITH THE GREEN GOBLIN! LOOK FOR THIS ACTION-PACKED COVER STUNNINGLY ENHANCED WITH HOLOGRAPHX FOIL! DON'T DARE MISS IT!